REMARKS

Claims 3 and 6-9 have been amended and new claims 10-32 presented to eliminate multiple dependencies. Support for each of the newly added claims can be found in original claims 1-9. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-32 are in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA, P.C.

Donald E. Townsend

Reg. No. 22,069

Donald F. I oursend, J.

Donald E. Townsend, Jr

Reg. No. 43,198

Date: June 27, 2001

TOWNSEND & BANTA, P.C. 1225 Eye Street, N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 682-4727

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 3 AND 6-9

Please substitute the amended Claim 3 for the original Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the flow path is structured having an interstitial portion formed between the sidewall of the float body and the inner wall of the container and/or an interstitial portion formed between the float body and the guide member arranged at the outer peripheral portion of the float body.

Please substitute the amended Claim 6 for the original Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [through 5], wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

Please substitute the amended Claim 7 for the original Claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [through 6], wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

Please substitute the amended Claim 8 for the original Claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 7], wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

Please substitute the amended Claim 9 for the original Claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 8] in which at least one portion is of a florescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.